

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

VISCLOSKY, Peter J. (Democrat)
Representative, 1st District, Indiana
Elected 1984 to the 99th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Gary, Indiana - 13 August 1949

Home: Merrillville, Indiana

Marital status: Divorced - 2 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Indiana Univ, BS, 1970; Notre Dame Univ, JD, 1973; Georgetown Univ, LLM, 1982

Military: None

Profession: Lawyer

Political: No previous office. Held staff positions with the HAC and Budget Cmtes. Legislative aide to former Rep Benjamin (D-IN). In 1984 defeated incumbent Rep Katie Hall in the Democratic primary. Reelected in 2000 with 73% of the vote and in 2002 with 67%.

Rep Visclosky is a political moderate characterized as "a low key, detail-minded legislator." (Politics in America, 1998) Is particularly sensitive to labor issues. His district produces more steel than any other district in the nation. In March 1997 was one of 30 founders of a group of Centrist Democrats called the New Democratic Coalition. In the 101st Congress, called for defense to share the pain of Gramm-Rudman sequestration. Opposed Federal pay raises for all Government branches and endorsed efforts to reform outside income for Congressmen.

In the 102nd Congress, opposed granting President Bush authority to use force in the Persian Gulf. Introduced a bill to resolve conflicts between US law - foreign host country laws re. severance pay for foreign nationals at US military banking facilities overseas. Appointed to the Appropriations Cmte on 9Oct91, resigning from Interior and Public Works & Transportation Cmtes. In the 103d Congress, appointed in May93 to examine the C-17 program and subsequently voiced concern about C-17 costs.

In the 105th Congress, again voiced concern with the failure to provide adequate military housing. (CR, 10Mar98) In April 1998 criticized the Navy for its management of a napalm shipment across the US for disposal and recycling at an East Chicago facility. (WashPost, 15Apr98) Opposed the President's line-item veto of 38 milcon projects from the FY98 milcon appropriations bill. In the 106th Congress, sponsored legislation to reduce the volume of steel imports, to improve clean water laws, and to improve physician availability. Supported higher funding levels for the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program, queried the Air Force leadership about why the AF hadn't been more successful in structuring joint precision guided munition programs, asked about the cost per unit for the F-22, and expressed some concern about the short-fall in spare parts. (HAC/Def Subc, 10Mar99)

In the 107th Congress, sought to provide relief to the steel industry's legacy retirement plan. Voted against the war powers resolution to authorize use of force against Iraq. Voted against the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. So far in the 108th Congress, continued to support amdt that would permit abortions at overseas health facilities. Opposed the environmental waiver for DOD.

Additional: Helped establish the Calumet Forum, a partnership of labor, business, government, academia for improving the economy/quality of life of northwest Indiana
AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Defense; Energy and Water Development (Ranking)